

SITUATION REPORT NO. 50
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: June 18, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Dry conditions across the Devils Lake Basin continue to inhibit the rise of Devils Lake. The lake at Creel Bay on June 18 was 1,442.22, only one-tenth of a foot increase since early June. The National Weather Service expects the lake to peak at 1,443 to 1,444 feet by mid-July. The Weather Service plans to issue a revised forecast for Devils Lake later today.

In Benson County, high winds on Devils Lake washed debris and water onto Woods-Rutten Road, making travel hazardous. As a result, county officials closed the road on June 15 and reopened it the next day.

The N.D. Council of the Arts reports that the North Dakota Ballet building was burned during the fire that occurred shortly after Grand Forks flooded. The Empire Theater and the Fire Hall Theatre suffered water damages. Damage assessments continue by members of North Dakota's arts community.

Overland flooding is occurring at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. This flooding is caused by high inflows from the Yellowstone River, which is cresting at the Sydney, Mont., area. High waters will continue for the next week. The Missouri River at Williston had risen to 24.9 feet on June 17, almost five feet above flood stage. At this level, agricultural flooding occurs in the Trenton Bottoms area, and oil companies temporarily suspend pumping operations. The Weather Service expects the river level to slowly fall.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The State Donations Coordinator reported that items stored at the Casselton warehouse have been moved to the Grand Forks distribution site. Most items have been distributed. The United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) has agreed to store and distribute building materials for the long-term reconstruction process. Needed items include money and all materials for the reconstruction process. Additional information about the current needs list can be obtained by calling the hotline at (800) 809-1450.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has allocated \$50 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for expedited disaster relief to Grand Forks and \$60 million for other flood-affected communities in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. The U.S. HUD Secretary has established a Disaster Recovery Office at 1405 1st Avenue North, Grand Forks, where HUD personnel are working with staff from the city's Urban Development Department.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will host the Upper Midwest Tribal-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Partnership Meeting at Fort Yates on June 24-25. Those in attendance will include: James Lee Witt, FEMA Director; Maj. Gen. Keith D. Bjerke, State Coordinating Officer; Lesli A. Rucker, Federal Coordinating Officer; and leaders from more than 25 tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota. Topics for this unprecedented meeting will include discussions on FEMA assistance programs, managing tribal relations and enhancing the federal/state partnership with tribal governments.

The N.D. Department of Health, in cooperation with KXJB-Channel 4 in Grand Forks, produced a public service announcement (PSA) advising the public to avoid exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning. This PSA will be aired 80 times during the next few weeks in eastern North Dakota. The Department of Health's Disease Control Section identified carbon monoxide poisoning as a major health concern for flooded areas. Health facilities in Cavalier, Grafton, Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City and Jamestown report that one person has died and 63 people suffered carbon monoxide poisoning from April 5 to June 17.

To date, Job Service North Dakota has paid 13,288 flood-related unemployment insurance claims for \$2.7 million in benefits. The agency has paid \$2.5 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to 4,875 self-employed persons, farmers, migrant workers and farm workers. The deadline for applying for DUA benefits is June 30.

To date, Public Assistance staff has determined that costs of eligible damages total more than \$18.5 million for infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

More than 34,674 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 22,294 have received nearly \$42.3 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$110.2 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 9,517 loan applications, 5,135 of which have been approved.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved nearly \$3.4 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,186. To date, 4,979 applications have been closed.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>

N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>

N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>

N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director